

TENNESSEE ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND OTHER DRUG COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Highlights

July, 1994

Source: Community Health Research Group, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Health, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services.

Purpose: 1) To provide data on the prevalence of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) use, abuse, and associated health and lifestyle problems in Tennessee as well as 2) to scientifically assess the need for ATOD treatment and prevention services for planning and prioritization of programs statewide, regionally, and by county/county cluster.

Target Population: All noninstitutionalized adults aged 18 and over who live in households in twelve sampling regions in Tennessee, roughly 70% of the population of the state and an estimated 85% to 95% of adults.

Timeframe: Planning for and development of the Community Needs Assessment began in the fall of 1992. The Tennessee ATOD Needs Assessment Survey of Adults was conducted between January and July of 1993. Data entry, cleaning, reliability and validity checks, computerization and data analysis occupied the period from July through December, 1993. Presently reports' generation and requested special data analyses are underway. The Community Needs Assessment is an ongoing project, and the youth component of the project has begun as of summer, 1994.

Method: The Tennessee ATOD Needs Assessment Survey of Adults uses a two-stage probability sample and random digit dial telephone techniques.

Data: Approximately 8,000 adults ages 18 and over living in households in Tennessee in twelve sampling units (four metropolitan counties and eight non-metropolitan regions) were surveyed on a range of health, lifestyle, and ATOD variables.

Results: Results from the adult survey are presented in three parts: 1) regional data comparisons which set the stage for needs assessment and problem identification; 2) sub-group comparisons which are used to pinpoint problems and differences across groups within the population of Tennessee adults; and 3) profiles of prevalence of risk among high risk groups. Residents' concerns about ATOD issues and perceived ATOD service needs are contained in special reports utilizing direct quotations from survey respondents.

Findings: Regional differences on a whole host of variables are noted, as well as important differences between two sub-groups (African-Americans and whites and females compared to males). Finally, to further profile population sub-groups, those groups at particularly high risk of ATOD use, abuse, and problems are profiled--illegal drug users compared with all adults who do not now and have never used one or more illegal drugs;